

The Presbyterian of The South

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Church News**VIRGINIA.**

Richmond Colored Mission: December has been an exceedingly bright month for the Seventeenth Street mission. Not only has the attendance of the Sunday-school been above the capacity of the house, but in their willingness to respond and in their behavior the children have surpassed the most sanguine expectation of the workers. A most encouraging feature is seen in the attendance for the last two Sundays in the month, in spite of the fact that the majority of the teaching force was away for the holidays. The entire exercises for these two days were conducted from the platform. On the night of the 29th the Sunday-school and Junior Endeavor Society rendered an interesting Christmas program to a crowded house. This entertainment was featured by an address from Santa Claus, recitations and songs by the children, illustrated songs and stereopticon pictures of the Christmas season and Christ. Eleven prizes were presented to pupils having a perfect record of attendance for one year. At the beginning of the new year's work the school expects to make an increased effort to keep an exact record of each pupil. This will be done through visiting in the homes and increased class activities.

—Last Sunday night the Presbyterians of this city celebrated their annual joint communion service at the First church, of which Dr. F. T. McFaden is pastor. Dr. Russell Cecil preached an excellent sermon from Luke 22:11: "Ye shall say to the good man of the house, The Master saith unto thee, Where is the guest-chamber, where I shall eat the pass-over with my disciples?" Dr. J. Y. Fair and Dr. J. Calvin Stewart administered the communion, and Rev. Wesley Baker took part in the services.

—Grace-Covenant Church, had a most interesting "White Gifts for the King" Christmas service. Three were received into the church on profession of their faith at that time and four by letter.

Christiansburg: The thirty-sixth Christmas offering of the Sunday-school and congregation of the Christiansburg church resulted in \$902.00, the largest sum ever given by the congregation for the orphans. The theme of the Christmas service was "The Gifts to the King." The gifts were of self, service and substance.

The climax of the service was the giving of the above amount and the presentation of three little orphan girls who will be sent to the Thornwell Orphanage at Clinton, S. C. The success of this annual offering is an illustration of the response that all churches may have from a regular appeal at the Christmas season for some great cause. Almost any church, by persistent work can build up a like offering for Ministerial Relief, Foreign Missions or the other great enterprises of the kingdom. Information as to the method of collecting the offering will be cheerfully furnished.

Craigsville: The good people of the Bethany church have filled to overflowing the heart of their parson and the pantry of their parsonage by a most generous and general and long-continued "pounding." The mere money value of these provisions is very great; far greater is their worth as a proof of the affectionate interest of the donors. Bro. J. E. Cook, of Keswick, is going to have the good fortune of sharing with us in these good things while he preaches to us the still better things of the kingdom during a two-weeks' meeting beginning January 1st. We are hoping and praying for a great spiritual blessing upon the whole community. Our Christmas offering to the Ministerial Relief Endowment Fund was more than \$16. The Sunday-school Christmas service on Monday evening was a notable success, with giving rather than receiving as its key-note.

J. H. Davis.

Bethesda: A very interesting and successful meeting has been held recently at the McElwee chapel of Bethesda church by the pastor, Rev. E. W. McCorkle. There were eleven additions to the church. Almost all of these were men and heads of families.

Lexington: The Christian Endeavor Societies of Rockbridge county met at this church December 28th to consider the propriety of forming a county union.

Falling Springs and Glasgow: Rev. A. E. Baker is doing faithful and successful work at these churches.

Lexington: Thursday, December 21st, the Liberty Hall Sunday-school (one of the branch schools of our church) held its Christmas celebration, and took up a collection of \$20.85 for the Ministerial Relief Endowment Fund. The next night our main Sunday-school held its celebration, and has contributed \$128.47 for the same cause.

Sunday morning, December 24th, the session room was crowded with persons seeking admission to the church on profession of their faith. With the exception of one man thus received, these were young people, most of them from our Sunday-school. Thirteen of the twenty-six were baptized at the morning service following their appearance before the session. The steady accession from our Sunday-school is one of the deeply gratifying things in connection with this church. In addition to these twenty-six, another man appeared before the session to say that he wished to make confession that his life had not been right, though he was a church member, and he wished in this manner to reinstate himself.

A. H.

Hampton: This people, ever generous and loyal, as usual presented their pastor with a purse of \$130 in gold and a large number of beautiful gifts on Christmas morning. Though the number steadily increases, deaths and removals have weakened them financially, but they grow more and more liberal in their gifts to benevolences and Church support. United as one in heart, loyal to the Master, and with the brightest of material prospects, the Church at large will hear

good things of the Hampton Presbyterian church. God is with us and the pastor's heart is filled with loving gratitude.

Hampton.

Lynchburg, Rivermont Avenue: In a very impressive service on the morning of the 17th, Mr. A. C. Knehr and Mr. John Merryman were installed as deacons before a large congregation, after which the pastor, Rev. E. M. Delaney, preached a splendid sermon, especially addressing the officers of the church. Mr. Delaney spent Christmas with his father in Bristol, Va., his pulpit being very acceptably filled on the 24th by Mr. Z. Lewis, of the Union Theological Seminary. The first of the year an every member canvass will be held in the congregation, and much interest is being manifested in it. Under Mr. Delaney's earnest leadership Rivermont Avenue has taken on new life, every activity of the church feeling the effect of his zeal and influence.

Dr. Geo. P. Hamner, Clerk.

ALABAMA.

Madison: This Sunday-school had a successful and profitable "White Gifts" celebration on the evening of December 24th. We have a total enrollment of only thirty-four officers, teachers and scholars, but with willing hearts and hands we offered our "white gifts" for the King. There were ten reconsecrations to Christ and forty pledges for service in various lines of church work. Of our substance we offered \$13.05 which goes to the Endowment Fund for Ministerial Relief. The church also remembered the pastor in a most liberal and loving manner.

APPALACHIA.

Chattanooga, Tenn.: The announcement that Rev. J. Walter Cobb, pastor of the Missionary Ridge Presbyterian church, has resigned to accept a call to a church at Stamps, Ark., will come as a surprise to many of his friends in Chattanooga outside of his immediate congregation and will regret to learn that he is to leave Chattanooga, where he has done such an excellent work during the past four years.

While Mr. Cobb has contemplated this action for some time it has not before been made public outside of his congregation. He announced a week ago to his official board his contemplated departure and his resignation was accepted with regret, but the matter awaited the decision of the Knoxville Presbytery, which met at the First Presbyterian church.

On request of Mr. Cobb his relations with the Missionary Ridge church were dissolved, and he was granted a letter of dismissal to the Presbytery of Ouachita, where he goes to assume the pastorate of the church at Stamps, Ark.

Mr. Cobb has served the Missionary Ridge church for four years and three months, and during that time he has accomplished much good and done a splendid work. When he became pastor there were sixty-five members; one hundred and twenty have been added on profession and by certificate; thirty have gone through deaths and removals, leaving a communicant list of 155. Four of the members received during this pastorate are on the official board of the church.

The following organizations have been effected: Ladies' Aid Society, the Girls' Missionary Band, Christian Endeavor Society, Teachers' Training Class, mid-week prayer meeting, a mission Sunday-school in Fort Cheatham.

The spirit of giving has been largely developed. The annual offerings for all causes have increased from \$1,900 to \$3,200.

As a result of this increased liber-

ality on the part of the congregation and on account of the needs of enlarged facilities for the work of all departments of the church, and for more room for the congregation, whose membership has tripled, improvements have been recently made on the house of worship with an outlay of near \$2,500. The house is now thoroughly equipped for the church's various activities, and is the largest and most beautiful of all the churches in the Ridgedale suburb.

Mr. Cobb is preparing to go to his new field this week.

The Missionary Ridge church has not selected Mr. Cobb's successor, but has invited Rev. W. R. Johnson, a graduate of the Moody Institute, and who has served in Missouri as pastor, to come next Sunday to look over the field.

Rev. J. C. Cowan, D. D., of Knoxville, was elected as Mr. Cobb's successor as stated clerk and treasurer of the Presbytery until the regular meeting of Presbytery in the spring.

Rev. A. E. Wallace, pastor at Athens, was dismissed to Concord Presbytery in North Carolina, where he goes to enter a new work.

Asheville Presbytery met in pro rata session in the First Presbyterian church, Asheville, N. C., on December 18, 1916, and transacted the following business:

1. Rev. J. M. Clarke, D. D., was granted a letter of dismissal to Concord Presbytery.

2. The pastoral relation between Rev. A. M. McLaughlin and the Ora Street church, Asheville, was dissolved, both pastor and church concurring, and Rev. Mr. McLaughlin was granted a letter of dismissal to Abingdon Presbytery.

3. The date of spring meeting of Presbytery was changed from April 3d to Tuesday, May 1, 1917.

E. L. Siler, Stated Clerk.

Newland is the county-seat of Avery county. Avery county is the youngest of North Carolina's 100 fair daughters. For beauty and convenience of situation there are few, if any, towns in the mountains that are more favored. In the center of the town the county has built a handsome brick Court House. In front of the Court House there is a large public square. In front of this square and directly in front of the Court House is situated the beautiful Presbyterian church, while to one side and facing another side of the square is situated the nicely finished and partly furnished manse.

Dr. S. L. Morris told, in one of his addresses, the story of how, when a certain territory in Oklahoma was opened up for settlers, a woman dashed in on horseback. Her horse stumbled and threw her over its head on one of the lots. A gentleman who was just behind jumped off of his horse to assist the woman. As soon as he bent over her she reached out for the stake that marked the lot and exclaimed, "This is my lot!" The man had had his eye on this lot and took steps to defend his rights. The matter was taken to court and the judge gave the lot to the woman on the ground that she hit the ground first.

The Presbyterians hit the ground first in Newland. Before a single building in the town was finished and before the first public sale of lots had come off they had the foundations of a church building laid. This was nearly four years ago, and up to this time there is not another finished church building in the town.

Besides the church and manse there is a list of twenty-nine adults, in whose homes there are over forty children, who are ready to come into a permanent organization. In the

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